

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following re-written paragraph:

[0024]

Where short fibers having a fiber length from 100nm to 5mm (vapor-phase grown carbon fiber or carbon nanotube) are used, the present step can be conducted by a physical mixing method with a ball mill, a roll mill or a high-speed rotating mill. In the present step, separately pre-ground metal powder having the above-described particle diameter may be used. Alternatively, in the present step, metal powder having a larger particle diameter may be used and grinding of the metal powder and attachment of the ~~ground~~ ground powder to carbon fiber may be conducted at the same time.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following re-written paragraph:

[0025]

Further, when using a pitch-based carbon fiber, PAN-based carbon fiber and nanotube/nanofiber twisted wire, which can be handled as a continuous fiber, for example, the equipment as illustrated in Fig. 3 is used to immerse the continuous fibers into a suspension in which metal powder is dispersed in a solvent, thereby obtaining a fiber bundle having metal powder attached with a high efficiency and an high accuracy. As used herein, by “To be handled as continuous fibers”, it is meant that a length of the fibers is 100mm or more. In the equipment illustrated in Fig. 3, a fiber bundle 30 is unwound from an unwinding bobbin 21, immersed into a metal powder suspension 31 in a vessel 24 agitated by an agitator 25, and the fiber bundle 30 to which metal powder is attached is wound up by a winding bobbin 22. Herein, before the bundle is wound up by the winding bobbin 22, solvent attached on the fiber bundle 30 may be evaporated and removed by a drying means 23 such as a hot-air dryer. A solvent used for the metal powder suspension 31 may be selected from organic

solvents such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, acetone, hexane, benzene, xylene, toluene, dimethyl ether, diethyl ether, ethylmethyl ether and chloroform, where dispersed metal powder is a powder of aluminum, magnesium or their alloys. Where powder of copper and its alloy is dispersed, water may be selected in addition to the above organic solvents.

Preferably, the metal powder suspension 31 further comprises a ~~Pluronic~~PLURONIC®-based dispersant (~~Pluronic~~PLURONIC® (registered trade mark) F-68 and the like) or polyethylene glycol as a dispersant-adhesive, thereby promoting a uniform attachment of metal powder to fiber bundle. Contents of carbon fiber in a composite material obtained by this method are controlled by an amount of metal powder attached to the fiber bundle. In turn, the amount of the attached metal powder can be regulated by controlling an amount of metal powder mixed in the suspension, a length of a path where the fiber bundle is immersed in the metal powder suspension, a speed of the fiber bundle passing through the metal powder suspension and/or a concentration of the dispersant-adhesive.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following re-written paragraph:

[0027]

The metal fiber mixture 8 is filled into a recess formed by fitting the lower punch 3 into the die 2, with aligning fibers in the mixture. When using long fibers having a fiber length of 5mm or more, it is preferable to align the fibers on filling. When using short fibers having a fiber length from 100nm to 5mm, the fibers may be aligned on filling or they may be ~~simultaneously~~simultaneously aligned and sintered in the sintering step to be explained later.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following re-written paragraph:

[0041]

Pitch-based carbon ~~fiber having~~ fiber having a thermal conductivity of 1000W/mK and a diameter of 10 μ m was used as carbon fiber and a bundle made of 6000 pieces of the fiber was wound up around an unwinding bobbin 2. Flake-like powder, which is 1 μ m or less in thickness and 30 μ m in mean representative length toward a surface (in-plane) direction, was used as aluminum powder. The aluminum powder was mixed in ethanol containing 2 % by weight (based on weight of the ethanol) of a dispersant-adhesive (~~Pluronic~~ PLURONIC® (registered trade mark) F68) to form a metal powder suspension. The content of aluminum powder was 30 % by weight based on the weight of the suspension. The bundle of carbon fiber was unwound from the unwinding bobbin, immersed into the metal powder suspension under agitation, taken up in the air, subjected to hot-air drying (50°C) and wound up around a winding bobbin to obtain a bundle of carbon fiber to which aluminum powder is attached.